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MONGOLIAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC SPEEDS UP AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.
IMPROVES FACILITIES FOR STOCK RAISING

[Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

Introduction

Introduction

The national economy of the Mongolian People's Republic is founded primarily on animal husbandry. According to 1949 data, it provides a source of livelihood, either directly or indirectly, for almost 90 percent of the population. In addition, it provides over 60 percent of the gross national production of the Mongolian People's Republic (1) The annual increase in the total number of livestock has continued to be the principal factor controlling formation of economic policies proposed by the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party. (2) This increase is being effected by the implementation of Soviet cattle-raising methods, by the formation and consolidation of arat producers' associations, and by the utilization of large quantities of agricultural equipment furnished by the USSR. These factors have been principally responsible for the extensive construction of adequate veterinary, shelter, and feeding facilities for the republic's many million head of livestock. (3)

Livestock raising is directly dependent upon the existence and availability of a stable fodder base, which, in turn, necessitates the maximum utilization of all available arable land. However, land cultivation is virtually a new branch of Mongolian agriculture. (4) Previously, unfavorable climatic conditions, inadequate distribution of water, and primitive farming methods kept the conduct of farming on a low level. (5) In 1937, the Mongolian People's Republic received considerable aid from the USSR in the form of shipments of farming machinery and equipment, as well as technical assistance and advice in the establishment of machine-harvesting stations, veterinary centers, and arat producers' associations. These are now integral factors in the formation and development of a stable fodder base. (3)

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Animal Husbandry

The development of a livestock-raising economy was based originally on the private individual labor and the economic initiative of all workers and livestock raisers. Simple arat production units were first organized on a voluntary basis for the cooperative pasturing of cattle, mowing of hay, building of sheds, and corrals for cattle, working of the land, etc. All the livestock in the republic were made the property of arat stockbreeders' and state farms. The government gradually strengthened and later consolidated arat stockbreeder farms into large stockbreeder associations. Future planning envisages the conversion of these associations into big socialist farms. The total number of these associations increased from 121 in 1949 to 139 in 1950.(6)

Since livestock and livestock products represent the basic wealth of the people, an increase in the total number of livestock has always been the prevailing policy of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party.(7) In 1918, 3 years before the People's Revolution, there were 12.7 million head of livestock. By 1930, this figure had increased to 23.4 million. However, from 1930 - 1932, the harsh economic policies which were initiated and implemented by leftist elements of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party, caused widespread animosity among the arat cattle raisers of the republic. As a result, more than 7 million head of livestock were slaughtered during this period by oppressed, dissatisfied, and rebellious cattle raisers. By the end of 1932, the total number of livestock had decreased to 16 million. However, immediately after the leftist elements had been overthrown, the livestock herds began to increase. During the one-year period, 1933 - 1934, there was an increase of 3.5 million head of livestock. From 1934 to 1941, the total increased from 21.1 million to 27.5 million.(2) Even during the war years, and in spite of exceptionally poor weather conditions, some progress was made in the development of animal husbandry.(5)

In 1940, the tenth session of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party considered a plan by which the total number of livestock in the country could be raised from 27.5 million to 50 million by the end of 1945, and to 200 million by the end of 1953. The plan required that the republic's entire supply of natural resources and productive forces be placed under the auspices of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party for the purpose of expanding the animal husbandry industry. This plan was later adopted by the Eighth Great Hural on 1 January 1941.(7)

The current Five-Year Plan (1948 - 1952), promulgated in the latter part of 1947, calls for a 50-percent increase in the total number of livestock by the end of 1952. Toward this end, 74 out of every 100 females are to be bred, and the female livestock herds are to be increased by 60 percent.(5) However, during 1948, the goal for the first year of the plan was not completely fulfilled. In 1949, the number of livestock increased 6.5 percent over 1948.(8) This was also announced as an increase of 201.3 percent over 1924 (4) making an estimated net total of 41.6 million head of livestock in 1949. In 1950, the net increase in livestock was 440,000 head. This was the largest yearly increase for the first 3 years of the current Plan.(5) From 1942 to 1950, the number of head of livestock had increased by 38.8 percent (6) making an estimated net total of 42 million in 1950. Below is a table which lists the increase in number of head of livestock from 1918 to 1950.

Table 1. Increase in No of Livestock (2, 4, 5)
(in million head)

	<u>1918</u>	<u>1924</u>	<u>1930</u>	<u>1932</u>	<u>1934</u>	<u>1937</u>	<u>1939</u>	<u>1941</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>
Livestock	12.7	13.8	23.4	16	21.1	23.3	26	27.5	41.6	42

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If the current plan, envisaging a 50-percent increase in total number of livestock from 1948 to 1952, is fulfilled, the livestock herds should number well over 50 million by the beginning of 1953. However, if the present rate of increase is maintained, the total should be closer to 45 million.

This increase in livestock has resulted from the government's supervision and control of the factors which influence the progress and development of the animal husbandry industry. These factors include the establishment of veterinary centers and the construction of new winter shelters and artificial water reservoirs for livestock.(2)

Since 1924, the implementation of veterinary science has advanced steadily, and the results have been illustrated by the recent decline in losses of cattle due to epizootic diseases.(4) This decline is the result of the establishment of veterinary centers throughout the republic. These centers provide for the inoculation and treatment of livestock with serums, viruses, toxins, etc., which either create immunization in healthy animals or check the spread of disease in infected animals. In 1924, there were only four veterinary centers and five veterinarians and assistants in the entire republic.(2) In 1947, there were 511 centers and 942 veterinarians and assistants under the control of the Ministry of Animal Husbandry. By 1952, there are expected to be 729 centers in operation.(5) The increase in the growth of veterinary centers is shown in the following table:

Table 2. Increase in No of Veterinary Centers (2, 5, 6)

	<u>1924</u>	<u>1931</u>	<u>1934</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1947</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>
Centers	4	25	52	237	511	520	575

Before the establishment of veterinary centers, hundreds of thousands of head of livestock were destroyed annually by such diseases as rinderpest, anthrax, glanders, foot-and-mouth disease, mange, etc. Even as recently as 1938, diseases caused the death of 47.3 percent of the many thousands of cattle that perished that year. However, in the past few years, Soviet and Mongolian veterinarians have made great strides in combating these destructive diseases. Soviet bacteriologists and parasitologists set up experimental clinics, trained many Mongolian cadres in veterinary science and established a Bacteriological Institute in Ulan Bator.(2) As a result of this experimental research, Soviet scientists and Mongolian technicians have succeeded in completely eliminating rinderpest, and in sharply reducing the incidence of anthrax, mange, and other epizootic diseases. In spite of the mortality rate of livestock due to disease, the number of livestock has increased steadily.(5)

Extremely cold winters and an inadequate distribution of water resources have necessitated extensive construction of winter shelters and artificial wells.(9) The number of artificial reservoirs and wells has increased from 9,000 in 1932 to 44,000 in 1949. By the end of 1952, another 20,000 wells are to be put into operation.(5) The following table shows the increase in the number of artificial wells and reservoirs:

Table 3. Increase in No of Artificial Wells (2, 5)
(in 1,000)

	<u>1932</u>	<u>1934</u>	<u>1939</u>	<u>1942</u>	<u>1945</u>	<u>1949</u>
Wells	9	9.6	15.9	23	30.7	44

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The increase in number of cattle shelters has been equally noteworthy. From 1924 to 1934 more than 60,000 shelters were built.(2) From 1934 to 1944, more than 210,000 were in operation. To further accommodate the migratory requirements of the republic's animal husbandry industry, more than 30,000 permanent and movable cattle shelters were erected during 1946. By 1952, more than 40,000 additional shelters are to be constructed. More cattle shelters have been erected in the northern and central portions of the republic than in the Gobi desert region.(5) The following table shows the relative increase in the number of cattle shelter facilities.

Table 4. Increase in No of Cattle Shelters (2, 5)
(in 1,000's)

	<u>1924</u>	<u>1934</u>	<u>1939</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1941</u>	<u>1944</u>	<u>1946</u>
Shelters	--	60	174	180	188	210	240

Farming

The development of a stable fodder base by the best utilization of existing natural soil and vegetative resources is the most vital requisite for the development of agriculture in the Mongolian People's Republic.(2) However, unfavorable climatic conditions, which include poor distribution of moisture, sharp fluctuations in temperature, short summers (2½ to 3 months), and long, extremely cold winters, have always relegated farming to a position of secondary importance.(9,3) Prior to the formation of the republic, Chinese farmers cultivated some 70,000 hectares of land. The principal crops were wheat, barley, and millet.(7) Although more than 70 percent of Mongolian territory is covered by meadows which provide excellent green fodder for cattle, several thousand head of cattle perish annually because of hunger. Such a situation is usually encountered when extremely severe winters delay the advent of spring which, in turn, retards the growing season of most grass crops.(9, 2) In 1937, the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party received considerable assistance from the USSR in its effort to provide and store food stocks. The USSR sent 124 agricultural specialists to set up ten machine-harvesting stations and to train Mongolian cadres in the operation and management of these stations. In an effort to ensure the successful development of mechanized harvesting of fodder grasses in Mongolia, the USSR furnished these stations with the following: 40 tractors, 285 horse-drawn rakes, 485 mowers, 20 automobiles, 10 oil engines, and a considerable number of hand implements. In 1938, the USSR assisted in the establishment of 14 additional stations and provided the following additional equipment: 67 tractors, 822 mowers, 540 horse-drawn rakes, and 122 binders.(7) By 1943, the USSR had furnished the Mongolian People's Republic with six times as much machinery and equipment as during the single year 1937 - 1938.

Since 1937, the number of hectares mowed by these stations has increased steadily; from 72,000 hectares in 1937 (7) to 1,280,000 in 1949. By 1952, an additional 400,000 hectares are expected to be mowed.(5) The following table shows the increase in the area mowed by these stations. Before their advent only a small area was cut in the republic.

Table 5. Increase in Area Mowed
by Machine-Harvesting Stations (2, 5, 7)

	<u>1924</u>	<u>1937</u>	<u>1938</u>	<u>1939</u>	<u>1941</u>	<u>1943</u>	<u>1946</u>
Area (in 1,000 ha)	2	72	115	127	749	1162	1280

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Land cultivation has always been of secondary importance to the Mongolian arats. However, during the last 20 years, the state supervised farming in the republic in the form of huge state farms, which were equipped with modern machinery and equipment imported from the USSR. In 1949, there were nine state farms.(4) In 1950, this number had increased to 12.(6) During the past 9 years, the over-all productivity of these farms increased by 4.5 times.(3)

The state has also made great strides by encouraging peasant farmers to expand their individual areas under cultivation and to increase total productivity by granting them loans, and by renting them planting and harvesting equipment from machine-harvesting stations, etc.(3) In 1940, there were over 10,000 arat production units; they cultivated more than 20,000 hectares of arable land. By 1948, the number of arat units had more than doubled, and the area under cultivation numbered almost 29,000 hectares. By 1952, the total area under cultivation by arat units is expected to increase to 46,000 hectares. At present, hundreds of Soviet-made tractors, tractor-plows, cultivators, harrows, seeders, combines, threshers, harvesters, binders, mowers, horse-drawn rakes, etc., are playing a vital role in this current program, which is to provide for the establishment and mechanization of 120 machine-harvesting stations by the end of 1952.(5)

In recent years, there has been a greater tendency among the arats to consolidate their holdings in the form of arat producers' associations. Such associations are formed on the basis of joint performance of agricultural work, pasturage of cattle, storage of fodder, etc. In 1949, there were 110 arat producers' associations in operation. They had the wholehearted support of the state.(3)

In 1940, the Mongolian People's Republic conducted a series of soil cultivation experiments in the Gobi Desert region (2), where botanists have estimated that there are almost 300 different varieties of vegetation consisting of saltworts, cereals, wormwood, and brushwood.(9) The purpose of these experiments was to increase the total area of arable land under cultivation in the republic by ascertaining the feasibility of raising various types of fodder and seed crops in this area. These experiments yielded positive results. In 1941, the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party inaugurated the first extensive farming project ever attempted in this region.

During World War II, the republic satisfied only a part of its grain requirements; the rest was imported from the USSR in exchange for meat and textile products.(2) The current Five-Year Plan anticipates considerable progress in achieving agricultural self-sufficiency for the entire republic by further consolidation and expansion of both state farms and arat producers' associations.(8)

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